CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1.   A communication method comprising the steps of:

   (a)   downloading identifying information about each of a series of files from a storage facility to a processor;

   (b)   placing the files in a priority order according to the identifying information and established rules;

   (c)   downloading a first file in the priority;

   (d)   processing the file; and

   (e)   transmitting the processed file to a remote location while remaining ones of the files are being downloaded.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the step of processing comprises the step of determining whether processing is complete.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the files are processed from a processing queue, and the queue is limited to a maximum size of N files.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the steps of transmitting, processing, and downloading are accomplished substantially simultaneously.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of processing comprises, compressing the file.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of placing the files in a queue and wherein the queue is limited to a maximum size of N files.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining whether a queue is empty prior to beginning the step of processing.

8. A communication method comprising the steps of:

    (a) setting a number of files acceptable from each one of a plurality of sources;

    (b) receiving a new file from a source into a buffer;

    (c) determining whether a total number of files in the buffer is equal to the set number;

    (d) if the total number of files in the buffer is equal to the set number, compressing a file; and

    (e) transmitting the compressed file.

9. The communication method described in claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

a. if the total number of files in the buffer is not equal to the set number receiving an additional new file from the source; and

b. if the total number of files now in the buffer is equal to the set number, compressing a file; and

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c. transmitting the compressed file.

10. A communication method comprising the steps of:

a. setting an encoding length for a communication at eight bits;

b. accepting a user input length for the encoding length;

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c. determining whether the connection is wireless;

d. if the connection is wireless, rejecting the user input length; and

e. if the communication is not wireless, setting the encoding length equal to the user input length.

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11. The communication method as described in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

a. setting an encoding length for a communication at eight bits;

b. accepting a user input length for the encoding length;

c. determining whether the connection is wireless;

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d. if the connection is wireless, rejecting the user input length; and

e. if the communication is not wireless, setting the encoding length equal to the user input length.